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# FERTILIZERS IN A NATIONAL EMERGENCY

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PROCUREMENT SECTION  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

**Procedures for Manufacturers,  
Distributors, and Dealers**

*Keep With Important Papers!*

PA-966

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# TO FERTILIZER MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS, AND DEALERS

In the United States, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands

This folder tells you what to do with your fertilizers if there should be a surprise enemy attack upon the United States, or if the President should declare a national emergency because an attack is believed imminent.

We must be prepared for prompt, effective action in case of an attack. Advance knowledge about what to do both personally and professionally will aid survival and recovery. Your cooperation will be needed.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for programs relating to the domestic distribution of commercial fertilizers in an emergency. A standby order governing this distribution has been drafted in consultation with representatives of the various national trade associations. It will be issued in an emergency to provide the legal basis for actions described in this folder.

## HOW TO USE THIS FOLDER

- Study it thoroughly.
- Keep it with your important papers.
- Review it now and then.
- Show it to new personnel who should know its contents.
- Follow its instructions in an emergency.



# FERTILIZER DEFINED

For the purpose of this folder, *fertilizer* means any product or mixture of products which contains one or more of the elements nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium, and is prepared for plant nutrition. Excluded are unprocessed manures, peat, humus, and basic slag.

## WHAT TO DO

### If Fertilizer Is Going to a USER . . .

You may sell or otherwise transfer fertilizer to a user only if he or his representative gives you a fertilizer use certificate. This certificate must be in essentially the form shown in this folder, signed by the user or his representative and approved by the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office for the county in which the fertilizers are to be used.

Any user who wants to obtain fertilizer, and who does not have an approved certificate, should be referred to the local ASCS office. Approval of the certificate is required to insure that fertilizers are used only on crops considered by the USDA to be essential.

You should attach each certificate received to a copy of the related purchase order and keep both for a period of two years.

### If Fertilizer Is Going to OTHER THAN A USER . . .

If you are a manufacturer or distributor you should continue to ship fertilizers to established trade areas. You should do this as equitably as possible, considering the disruption of sources of materials, communications, transportation, etc., that may have occurred. You may not make shipments outside your trade area unless you get approval of the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for the State in which this distribution is planned. You and others in the fertilizer trade should maintain liaison with officials in ASCS State and county offices. These officials have responsibility for controlling distribution and use of fertilizers, and will need your cooperation in making supplies available.

Manufacturers and distributors must comply with any directives from national headquarters of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or from the USDA Emergency Program Coordinator<sup>1</sup> for the region in which the fertilizer is located.

<sup>1</sup> USDA has an Emergency Program Coordinator in each of the following Regions:

1. Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.
2. Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia.
3. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.
4. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.
5. Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.
6. Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming.
7. Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah.
8. Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington.





# FERTILIZER IN TRANSIT

Some fertilizers in transit at the beginning of an emergency may not reach their destination because of emergency conditions. The carrier's representative is to try to get information from the shipper on the disposition of undeliverable shipments. If he cannot get this information he is to notify USDA county officials about the shipment. These USDA officials are to assume responsibility for the shipment and make arrangements for it to be redirected or held in storage pending instructions on its disposition.

## FERTILIZER USE CERTIFICATE

*In accordance with the Defense Food Order and Suborder in force governing the distribution and use of fertilizer, I certify, subject to criminal penalties for misrepresentation, that all fertilizers covered by this certificate will be used on the following crops:*

CROP	ACREAGE	GRADE OF FERTILIZER	TOTAL POUNDS
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of fertilizer user, or his name  
and the signature of his representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of user)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

*Use of above fertilizers to produce the specified crops is hereby approved.*

*Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service*

By \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(County and State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

# PLAN TO SURVIVE

The message of this folder has no meaning for persons and businesses that fail to survive. Plan now for survival of yourself, your family, and your business.

## SELF-SURVIVAL—IT'S YOUR DECISION

- Support your community in developing and planning for the use of public fallout shelters and an effective civil defense program.
- If public shelters are not available or you prefer a private shelter, provide for your protection and emergency survival supplies.

## BUSINESS SURVIVAL—ALSO YOUR DECISION

- Encourage your employees to support the public fallout shelter program or to prepare and stock their own shelters.
- Coordinate your disaster plans with the local civil defense director.
- Provide fallout shelter for employees and the public.
- Include dual-use fallout shelter in new construction.
- Arrange for the receipt and dissemination of attack warnings.
- Plan prompt movement of personnel into shelter in case of attack.
- Plan for continuity of management, executive succession, and protection of vital records.
- Train employees for: Shelter management—radiological monitoring—medical self-help—firefighting—rescue.
- Plan for emergency repair and restoration of damaged facilities.
- Make mutual-aid arrangements with neighboring facilities.
- Plan for continuity or early resumption of operations, including arrangements for alternate sources of supply.
- Be alert to possibility of sabotage.

This publication supersedes PA-540, "Fertilizers: What Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Should Do With Them in a National Emergency," December 1962.

**Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service**  
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